



Healthy Child Care Iowa Child Care Nurse Consultation

A child care nurse consultant is an Iowa licensed registered nurse (public health nurse) who completes a national curriculum regarding the health and safety of early childhood care and education programs. The curriculum addresses regulation, policy, and best practice. The child care nurse consultant (CCNC) travels to early childhood care and education sites to assist providers with health and safety aspects of the business. The CCNC and early childhood provider assess written policy, daily practice, and the health status of children. The CCNC and provider work together developing an improvement plan, interventions, and monitoring methods. Iowa has 58 local CCNCs working 32.54 FTE and four regional CCNCs working 4 FTE. Each CCNC is affiliated with a public health Child Health Center.¹ Every Iowa county has a CCNC available. In 1996, Iowa adopted the five national health and safety goals for early childhood care and education programs.² Those goals are listed below.

1. Safe, healthy early childhood care and education environments for all children, including those with special health needs
2. Up-to-date and easily accessible childhood immunizations
3. Access to quality health, oral/dental, and developmental screening and comprehensive follow-up for children
4. Health and mental health consultation, support, and education for families, children, and early childhood care and education providers
5. Health, nutrition, and safety education for families, children, and early childhood care and education providers

Child care nurse consultants achieve these goals by completing the following on-site activities.

- Conduct assessment and provide consultation on health and safety policy and practice using nationally developed standards and assessment tools^{3,4}
- Conduct assessment of access to and use of preventive and primary health care (including oral/dental health) services by children enrolled
- Conduct assessment of and promote nutrition and physical activity programs for children and families
- Facilitate referral and service coordination for children and families to preventive health screening, diagnosis, and treatment services (examples: WIC, child health, immunization, and maternal health)
- Facilitate referral and service coordination for children and families to public and private education, health, and human service programs (examples: Early Access, 1st 5-Healthy Mental Development, *hawk-i* and Medicaid)
- Conduct health and safety education and promotion programs for families, children and early childhood workers
- Provide training and on-site assistance to early childhood workers to increase access to quality early childhood programs for children with special health or developmental needs

Child care nurse consultants are supported through public and private funds. Table 1 describes CCNC funding.

Number of CCNC	Funding Sources	Total FTE
4	(Regional) CCNC, DHS funded	4
27	Title V MCH & Community Empowerment	16.46
24	Community Empowerment	9.13
3	Community Empowerment and Private Funding	1.75
2	Public School District	0.6
2	Private Funding	0.6
62	TOTAL	32.54

Table 1. Number of CCNC, Funding Source, and FTE. State Fiscal Year 2007

¹ Child Health Center programs are administered through the Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of Family Health and funded by the federal Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH), Social Security Act and state matching funds. For more information see http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hpcdp/child_health_centers.asp

² Healthy Child Care America Campaign, (1996). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Joint Campaign of the Administration for Children and Families, Child Care Bureau and the Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau.

³ American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, and the National Resource Center for Health and Safety In Child Care, (2002). Caring for Our Children, National Health and Safety Performance Standards, Guidelines for Out-of-Home Child Care Programs. 2nd Ed., US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (cooperative agreement # U93 MC 00098).

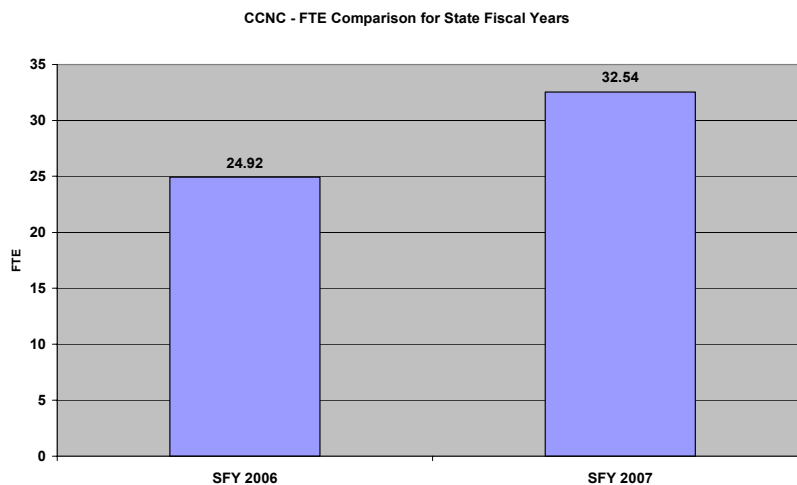
⁴ Kotch, Jonathan, (2000) Quality Enhancement in Infant and Toddler Programs, University of North Carolina, School of Public Health, Chapel Hill, NC.

The work of the CCNC is very different from the work of other child care consultants. Consultants may ask similar questions, but look for different levels of detail in order to help early childhood businesses. Several consultants ask questions about the number and ages of children enrolled. The DHS consultant addresses child to staff ratio, appropriate group size, and age grouping of children. The CCNC uses this information to identify potential concerns for child development, nutrition, physical activity, needed preventive health services including immunization, potential for spread of communicable disease among specific age groups, and potential age-related injury hazards. The DHS licensing consultant and CCNC collaborate to help early childhood businesses provide healthy and safe environments and programs. DHS and CCNCs partner by conducting site visits together. The DHS licensing consultant identifies areas of concern and the CCNC works with the business to develop improvement plans for appropriate policy and daily practice. The CCNCs serve a smaller number of businesses and can devote greater time on-site to facilitate quality improvement after the licensing visit is completed. The CCNC conducts on-site assessment, training or technical assistance and supplies resource materials to bring the level of health and safety in alignment with regulations and aid the business in moving to best practice.

Child care nurse consultants are funded on a year-by-year basis using a combination of federal and state funds and fiscal years. The funding inconsistencies deny children, families, and early childhood businesses consistent access to public health nursing expertise pertaining to health and safety in early childhood care and education programs.

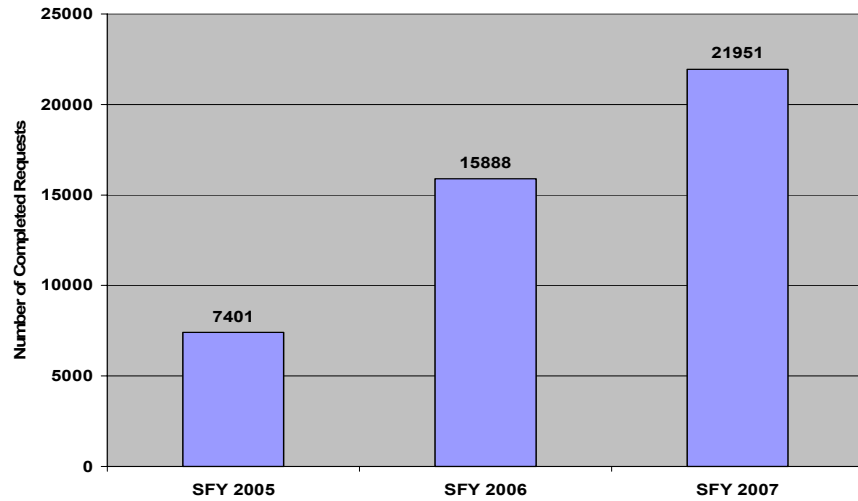
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Child Care Nurse Consultant Data – SFY 2007⁵

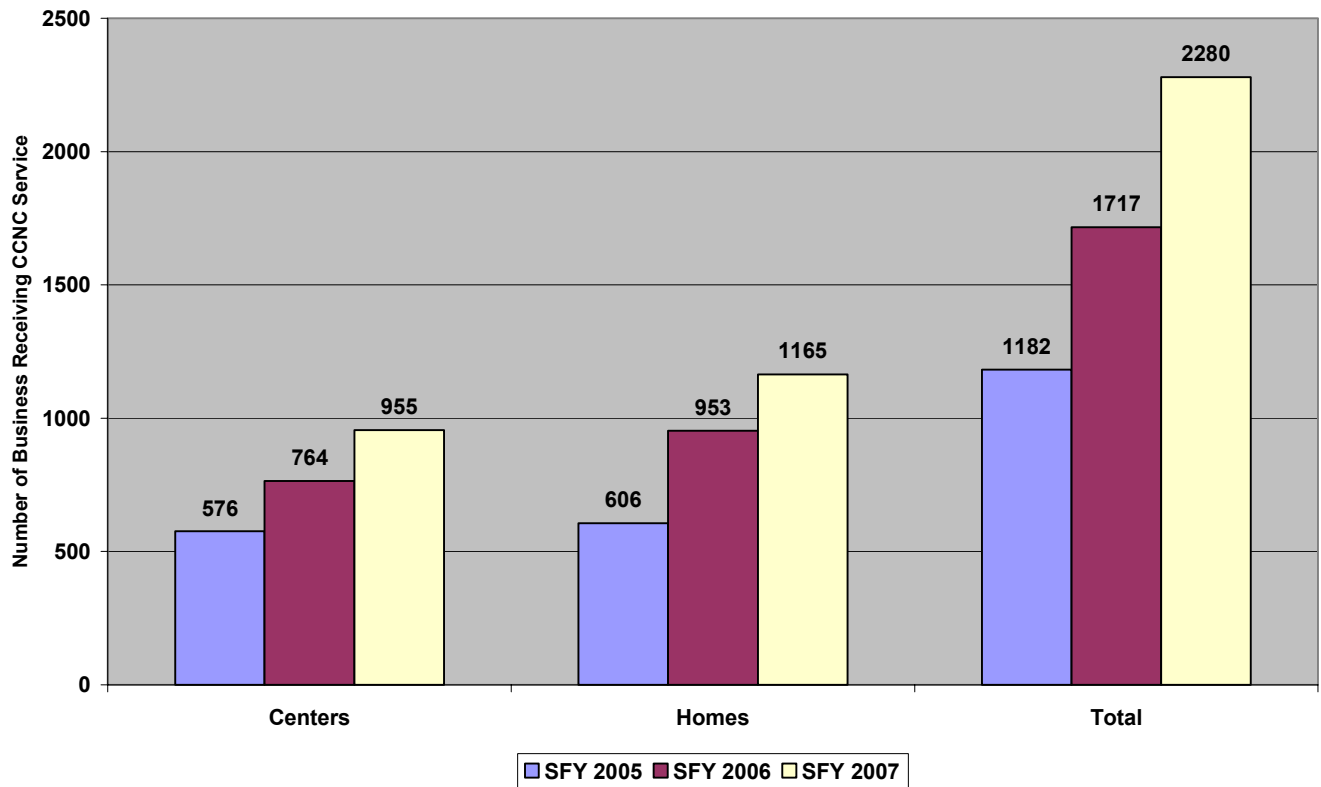


⁵ Child Care Nurse Consultant, Activity Log of Encounters, Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of Family Health. SFY 2007.

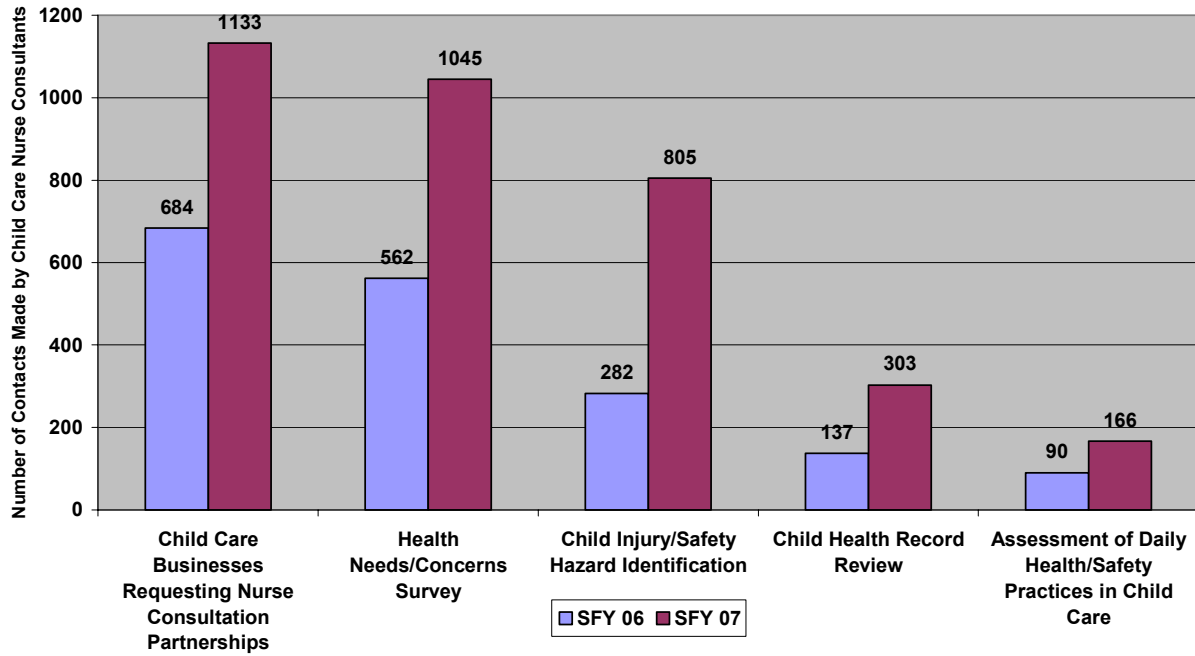
**Number of CCNC Services Requested by Early Childhood Care and Education Providers
State Fiscal Year**



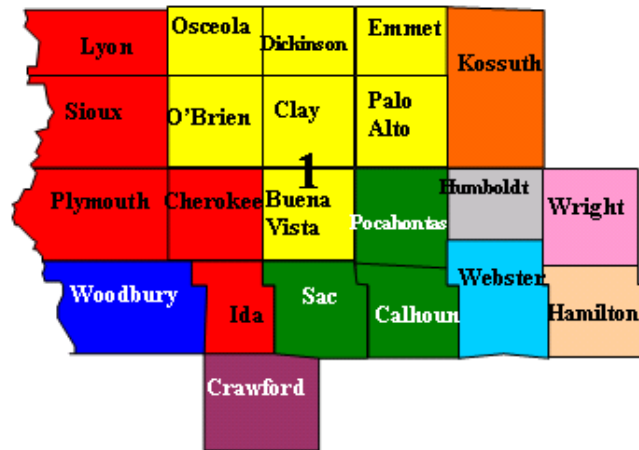
**Number of Early Childhood Care and Education Businesses Receiving a CCNC Service,
Unduplicated Count**



Number of Iowa Quality Rating System Consultations Provided by Child Care Nurse Consultants - State Fiscal Years 2006 & 2007



Region 1 Child Care Nurse Consultants



- Kim Gergen – 0.6 FTE**
Mid-Sioux Opportunity

- Lisa Chase – 1 FTE**
Mid-Sioux Opportunity

- Nancie Heithus – 0.7 FTE**
Upper Des Moines Opportunity

- Deb Gimer – 0.5 FTE**
Calhoun County Health Department

- Amanda McCandless* – 0.88 FTE**
*Also serves Monona, Harrison, and Shelby Counties in Region 3
Crawford County Home Health & Hospice

- Wendy Taylor* – 1 FTE**
*Also serves Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Hancock, Mitchell, Winnebago, Worth Counties in Region 2
North Iowa Community Action

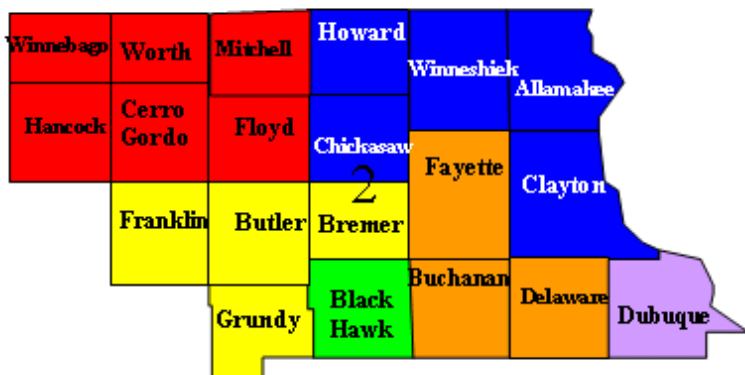
- Terry Raymond – 0.02 FTE**
Home Care Connections

- June Weiss – 0.25 FTE**
Tricia Nichols – 0.25 FTE
Webster County Health Department

- Gayleen Rutherford – 0.12 FTE**
Wright County Health Department

- Lori Price – 0.08 FTE**
Hamilton County Public Health

Region 2 Child Care Nurse Consultants



Wendy Taylor* – 1 FTE
 *Also serves Kossuth County in Region 1
 North Iowa Community Action Organization

Monica Preston – 0.8 FTE
 Clayton County Visiting Nurse Association

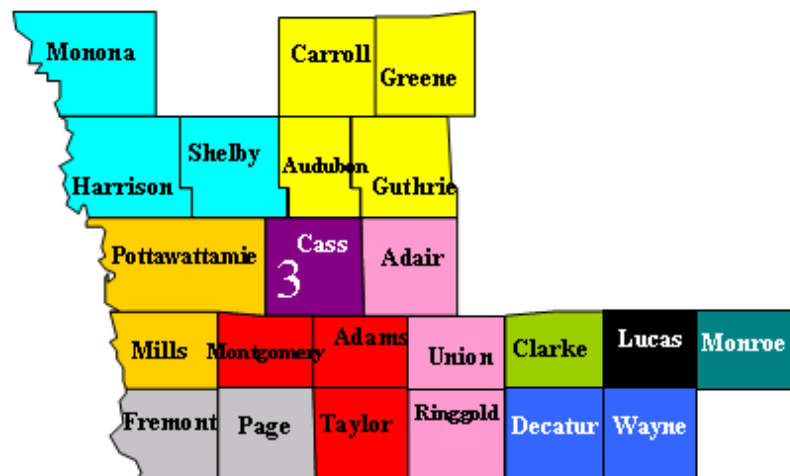
Jamie Riffley – 0.75 FTE
 Black Hawk County Child Health Department

Marilyn Thomas – 1 FTE
Nancy Hudson – 1 FTE
 Black Hawk County Child Health Department

Marianne Hickey – 0.75 FTE
 Black Hawk County Child Health Department

Kim Gonzales – 1 FTE
Cynthia Klein – 0.8 FTE
 Visiting Nurses Association of Dubuque

Region 3 Child Care Nurse Consultants



Amanda McCandless* – 0.88 FTE
 *Also serves Crawford County in Region 1
 Crawford County Home Health, Hospice & Public Health

Dottie Dorman – 0.5 FTE
 Community (New) Opportunity

Julie Kixmiller – 0.2 FTE
 Cass County Public Health

LeAndrea Bowman – 1 FTE
 Visiting Nurses Association of Pottawattamie County

Sharon Campbell* – 0.5 FTE
 *Also serves Madison County in Region 4
 Matura Action Corp.

Wendy Moyer – 0.25 FTE
 Page County Public Health

Loretta Dillon – 0.38 FTE
 Taylor County Public Health

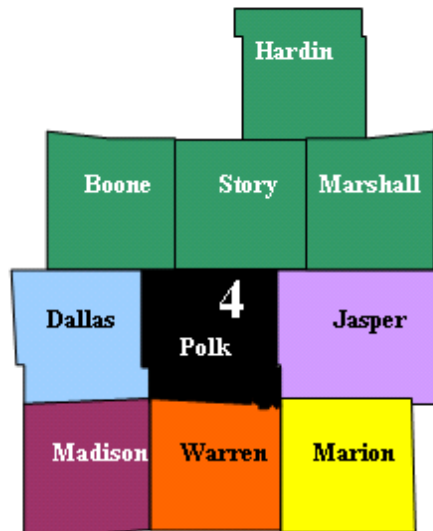
Joan Cooper – 0.1 FTE
 Clarke County Public Health

Patti Scieszinski – 0.1 FTE
 Lucas County Public Health

Sandra Baker – 0.13 FTE
 Decatur County Public Health

Kim Hagan – 0.18 FTE
 Monroe County Public Health

Region 4 Child Care Nurse Consultants



- Elaine Lawrence – 0.2 FTE**
Helen McKay* – 0.8 FTE
**Also serves Tama and Benton Counties in Region 5*
Mid-Iowa Community Action

- Karen Lonsdale – 0.75 FTE**
Dallas County Empowerment

- Bonnie Crady – 0.75 FTE**
Jody Dorweiler – 0.4 FTE
Sandra Foster – 0.5 FTE
Teresa Kolarik – 0.75 FTE
Visiting Nurse Services of Polk County

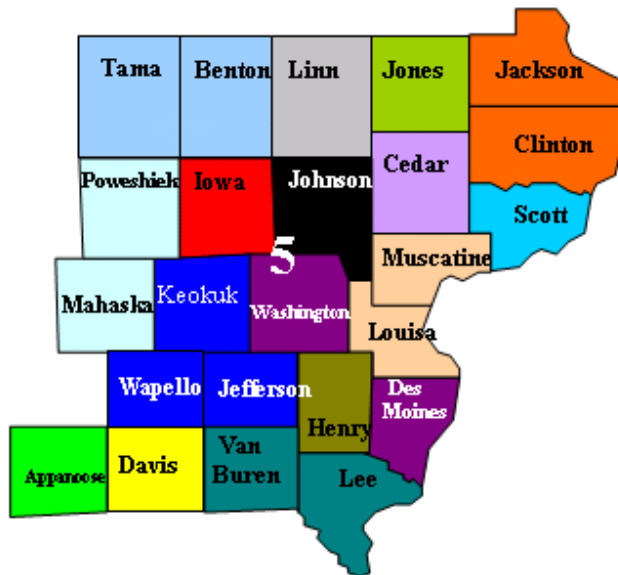
- Jean Ferguson – 0.2 FTE**
Skiff Home Care of Jasper County

- Sharon Campbell* – 0.5 FTE**
**Also serves Adair, Ringgold, and Union Counties in Region 3*
Black Hawk County Child Health Department

- Shelly Jensen – 0.2 FTE**
Warren County Health

- Denise Modtland – 0.3 FTE**
Community Health Services of Marion County

Region 5 Child Care Nurse Consultants



- Helen McKay* – 0.8 FTE**
*Also serves Boone, Hardin, Marshall, and Story Counties in Region 5
Mid-Iowa Community Action
- Sandra Sheehy – 0.5 FTE**
Hawkeye Area Community Action Program
- Terri Keleher – 0.5 FTE**
Community Health of Jones County
- Heidi Hotvedt – 0.5 FTE**
Jackson County Regional Health
- Kim Siek – 0.25 FTE**
Mahaska County Public Health
- Lee Daniels – 0.25 FTE**
Iowa County Public Health
- Iola Feldkamp – 0.5 FTE**
Johnson County Health Department
- Lee Kline – 0.25 FTE**
Cedar County Public Health
- Analisa Pearson – 1 FTE**
Scott County Health Department
- Heidi Scott – 0.5 FTE**
American Home Finding Association
- Nancy Granaman – 0.5 FTE**
Washington County Public Health
- Carine Townsend – 0.5 FTE**
Unity Public Health
- Robin Poole – 0.25 FTE**
Henry County Public Health
- Kara Dickerson – 0.7 FTE**
Appanoose County Public Health
- Shirley Garrett – 0.15 FTE**
Davis County Hospital Home & Community Health
- Cyndi Mason – 1 FTE**
Lee County Health Department